

Name_____

Pd._____

***A Separate Peace*: Chapter 7 Reading and Study Guide**

I. VOCABULARY: Be able to define the following words and understand them when they appear in the novel and in class discussion.

funereal of or relating to a funeral; mournful

contretemps An unforeseen event that disrupts the normal course of things; an inopportune occurrence.

fratricide _____

arsenic _____

glower _____

II. LITERARY TERMS: Be able to define each term and apply each term to the novel.

allusion _____

Example: _____

mood/tone _____

III. QUESTIONS: answer the following questions. Use complete sentences.

1. Although Brinker is built like an athlete, why isn't he an athlete?
2. What does Brinker accuse Gene of when he visits Gene in his room?
3. What is the Butt Room and what nickname does Brinker give it?
4. What does Gene give as a false confession when he is in the Butt Room?
5. Why does he give a false confession?
6. How does Gene manage to get out of Brinker's accusation?
7. Gene overhears a boy say as he leaves, "Funny, he came all the way down here and didn't even have smoke." What is funny, or curious, about him leaving without smoking? And what is Gene's reaction to this statement?

8. Gene says, “[Leper] seemed from a distance to be a scarecrow left over from the growing season.” Gene also mentions that he hasn’t seen him all fall. What is significant about the metaphor that compares Leper to a scarecrow?

9. What was Leper doing while the other boys shoveled the train tracks?

10. What is Brinker’s reaction to Leper?

11. What does Brinker decide he is going to do immediately?

12. What decision does Gene make while walking back to his room?

13. Who is in Gene’s room when he returns from his day of work?

IV. Passages: the following passage might prove to be important. Re-read the sections with these passages and think about why they might be significant? What do they mean? What are important ideas, imagery, or words? How do they add to the story or a theme? Do they incorporate any literary devices?

“They laughed at him a little, and he squirmed and looked guiltier than ever. He had a very weak foothold among the Butt Room crowd, and I had pretty well pushed him off it. His glance flickered out at me from his defeat, and I saw to my surprise that I had, by making a little fun of him, brought upon myself his unmixed hatred. For my escape this was a price I was willing to pay.”

“Not long afterward, early even for New Hampshire, snow came. It came theatrically, late one afternoon; I looked up from my desk and saw that suddenly there were big flakes twirling down into the quadrangle, settling on the carefully pruned shrubbery bordering the crosswalks, the three elms still holding many of their leaves, the still-green lawns. They gathered there thicker by the minute, like noiseless invaders conquering because they took possession so gently. I watched them whirl past my window—don’t take this seriously, the playful way they fell seemed to imply, this little show, this harmless trick.”

“Not that it would be a good life. The war would be deadly all right. But I was used to finding something deadly in things that attracted me; there was always something deadly lurking in anything I wanted, anything I loved. And if it wasn’t there, as for example with Phineas, then I put it there myself. But in the war, there was no question about it at all; it was there.”